

Title: **Vulnerability Assessment Study of the Ecuadorian Agricultural Sector**

Contact(s): Name: Stephen Bender
Agency: OAS
1889 F Street
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 458-3005
Fax: (202) 458-3560
E-mail: sbender@oas.org

Hazards examined: Multi-peril

Study emphasis: Economic development and potential loss estimations, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Summary: Offers a worst-case scenario approach to estimating potential crop losses resulting from disaster(s). Expected changes in investment, loans at risk, number of jobs involved and lost income and export earnings are used as barometers to estimate extent of effect on the local economy.

Vulnerability Indicators: Impact on investment, income, debt, employment and export earnings for selected crops due to the impact of natural hazards.

Economic Development, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response and/or Disaster Reconstruction Application: Site selection for the introduction of new crops, and their development and management; ag sector financial and economic analysis for public policy on price supports and technical assistance; potential loss estimations

Data Requirements: Agricultural production map for selected crops together with economic data, natural hazard zonification maps; support infrastructure maps.

Output: For a worst case scenario of maximum crop value loss (in the field or on the way to market) resulting in the expected changes in investment, loans at risk, number of jobs involved, lost income and export earnings.

Results of Application at Case Study Site: The study influenced a parallel study in the sector on site selection of new cacao growing areas. The public administration changed shortly after the completion of the study and the new administration showed little interest in the study's findings, but within two years was forced to deal with the impact of the 1992-1993 El Niño episode. No known follow-up on the study, but input data was used to prepare subsequent sector development programs.

Lessons Learned: Even with the presence of a post-disaster situation, public sector

interest in using, updating and developing more disaster resistant policies, programs and projects may not be present. The results will be waning interest in technical development by responsible technical staff in incorporating vulnerability reduction into sector development plans.